



# METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Morning Worship**  
**Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Pentecost**  
**November 5, 2023**

**Welcome!**

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
To all who mourn and long for comfort;  
To all who struggle and desire victory;  
To all who sin and need a Savior;  
To all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
And to whoever will come –

*This church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome  
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

# God Calls Us To Worship

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## Call to Worship - Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

**Unison: Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!**

Leader: Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

**Unison: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

Leader: For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

# We Respond To God's Call

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## Opening Hymn - "Lord, With Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee"

Trinity Hymnal #80

Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee  
For the bliss Thy love bestows,  
For the pard'ning grace that saves me,  
And the peace that from it flows.  
Help, O God, my weak endeavor;  
This dull soul to rapture raise:  
Thou must light the flame, or never  
Can my love be warmed to praise.

Praise, my soul, the God that sought thee,  
Wretched wand'rer far astray;  
Found thee lost, and kindly brought thee  
From the paths of death away.  
Praise, with love's devoutest feeling,  
Him who saw thy guilt-born fear,  
And, the light of hope revealing,  
Bade the blood-stained cross appear.

Praise thy Savior God that drew thee  
To that cross, new life to give,  
Held a blood-sealed pardon to thee,  
Bade thee look to Him and live.  
Praise the grace whose threats alarmed thee,  
Roused thee from thy fatal ease;  
Praise the grace whose promise warmed thee,  
Praise the grace that whispered peace.

Lord, this bosom's ardent feeling  
Vainly would my lips express:  
Low before Thy footstool kneeling,  
Deign Thy suppliant's prayer to bless.  
Let Thy love, my soul's chief treasure,  
Love's pure flame within me raise;  
And, since words can never measure,  
Let my life show forth Thy praise.

### **Acknowledging God's Presence**

### **Worship Theme - "Jesus Sends His Disciples As Apostles"**

#### **Theme Verses - Matthew 10:1-4**

And [Jesus] called to Him His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.

#### **Hymn - "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"**

Jesus, lover of my soul,  
Let me to Thy bosom fly.  
While the nearer waters roll,  
While the tempest still is high,  
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,  
Till the storm is past.  
Safe into the haven guide,  
Receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,  
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;  
Leave, ah! Leave me not alone,  
Still support and comfort me!  
All my trust on Thee is stayed,  
Help from Thee I bring.  
Cover my defenseless head;  
The shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;  
More than all in Thee I find.  
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,  
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
Just and holy is Thy name;  
I am all unrighteousness.  
False and full of sin I am,  
Thou full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,  
Grace to cover all my sin.  
Let the healing streams abound;  
Make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art;  
Let me take of Thee.  
Spring Thou up within my heart,  
To all eternity.

## We Confess Our Sins

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### **Prayer of Confession - Adapted from Psalm 51:1-17**

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You only, have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment. Hide Your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. For You will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering. Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Amen.

*Please take a moment for personal reflection and confession.*

### **Assurance of Pardon - 1 John 1:8-9**

Leader: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Unison: Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn - "Wonderful, Merciful Savior"**

Wonderful, merciful Savior,  
Precious Redeemer and Friend,  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could  
Rescue the souls of men;  
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,  
Spirit we long to embrace,  
You offer hope when our hearts have  
Hopelessly lost the way;  
Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way.

**(Refrain)**

You are the one that we praise!  
You are the one we adore!  
You give the healing and grace our  
Hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

Almighty, infinite Father,  
Faithfully loving Your own;  
Here in our weakness You find us  
Falling before Your throne;  
Oh, we're falling before Your throne. **(Refrain)**

## We Profess Our Faith And Pray

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### **Affirmation of Faith - Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Greeting**

#### **Hymn - "How Great Thou Art"**

Trinity Hymnal #44

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder;  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

**(Refrain)**

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; **(Refrain)**

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin. **(Refrain)**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! **(Refrain)**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily  
bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is  
the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

## We Receive God's Word

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### **Reading God's Word - Matthew 10:1-15**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Understanding and Applying God's Word**

Pastor Bill Lovell

**"Jesus Sends His Disciples As Apostles"**

Sermon Series - "The King & His Kingdom"

## We Respond To God's Grace

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### **Closing Hymn - "Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord"**

Trinity Hymnal #465

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,  
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

### **(Refrain)**

Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross. **(Refrain)**

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,  
What can avail to wash it away?  
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide;  
Whiter than snow you may be today. **(Refrain)**

## God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

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### **Closing Blessing - 1 Thessalonians 5:24**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

**"Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee"** Words by Francis Scott Key, Music arr. by Lowell Mason. **"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"** Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Greg Thompson – © 2000 Greg Thompson Music, All Rights Reserved. **"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"** Words and Music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse – © 1989 Curb Dayspring Music (admin. By Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Cor.), Word Music (Admin. by WB Music Corp.). **"How Great Thou Art"** Words by Stuart K. Hine, Music arr. by Stuart K. Hine. © 1953, renewed 1981, Manna Music, Inc. All rights reserved, used by permission. **"Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord"** Words by Julia H. Johnston, music by Daniel B. Towner. CCLI License #451603

# Sermon Text

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## English Standard Version - Matthew 10:1-15

1 And He called to Him His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. 2 The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;<sup>[a]</sup> 4 Simon the Zealot,<sup>[b]</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.

5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'<sup>[c]</sup> 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers,<sup>[d]</sup> cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. 9 Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, 10 no bag for your journey, or two tunics<sup>[e]</sup> or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. 11 And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. 12 As you enter the house, greet it. 13 And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. 15 Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town."

[a] Matthew 10:3 Some manuscripts *Lebbaeus*, or *Lebbaeus called Thaddaeus*

[b] Matthew 10:4 Greek *kananaios*, meaning *zealot*

[c] Matthew 10:7 Or *The kingdom of heaven has come near*

[d] Matthew 10:8 *Leprosy* was a term for several skin diseases

[e] Matthew 10:10 Greek *chiton*, a long garment worn under the cloak next to the skin bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.



# Sermon Notes

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## **Matthew 10:1-15**

Pastor Bill Lovell

### **"Jesus Sends His Disciples As Apostles"**

#### **Introduction**

#### **1. The Twelve Disciples**

#### **2. The Rest of Us (cf Matthew 28:16-20)**

*"It was not without reason, therefore, that the Lord, by appointing, as it were, twelve patriarchs, declared the restoration of the church. Besides, this number reminded the Jews of the design of His coming; but, as they did not yield to the grace of God, He begat for Himself a new Israel." John Calvin*

# Church Life Notes

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## Today - November 5, 2023

1. **Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Pentecost:** Pentecost is a season focused on discipleship. For the next several weeks, between now and Advent, we will be studying the Gospel of Matthew.
2. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is Larry Perry. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is James Woods.
3. **Giving Online:** To access our secure online giving portal, you may use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.
4. **MPC Youth Ministry:** Tonight, our large group meeting for middle and high school youth will meet from 6:00-8:00pm at the church. **Cross Training will continue this Sunday.** If any youth are interested in singing or playing an instrument in youth group, please join us at the church at 5:15pm.

## Upcoming Activities & Events

5. **MPC Sunday School for All Ages:** Please join us Sunday mornings between 9:00-10:00am.
  - **Children** - Pre-K-Grade 5 - Solid Bible teaching from the Children's Catechism, age appropriate and fun.
  - **Youth** - Grades 6-12 - Mature reflection on the Bible and the Westminster Shorter Catechism.
  - **Adult** - Careful study of Jared Wilson's *The Gospel According to Satan: Eight Lies About God That Sound like the Truth*.
6. **Men's Book Group:** Please join us in person or via Zoom **on Tuesdays**, as we study Jonathan Pennington's ***Come and See***. For more information, contact Paul Hartgrove (at 972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com) or Hayden Bernays (haydenbernays@gmail.com).
7. **Church Prayer Meeting:** Please join us for corporate prayer on Sunday mornings from 8:00-8:30am in Room D-02.
8. **Marriage Workshop:** Please join us on November 12 from 12:00-1:00pm for a discussion on strategies to deepen the spiritual intimacy in our marriages. You can bring your lunch, or contribute \$5 per person/\$20 per family to join in on our pizza order. For questions, pizza order confirmation, or information on our email list that discusses preferences about topics, and organizational details like food and childcare, please contact Diane Kizziar (dianekizziar@gmail.com).
9. **Christmas at Metrocrest:** Please make note of upcoming holiday activities.
  - **Christmas Pageant & Party** - Sunday, December 10, 4:30pm
  - **Christmas Eve** - Sunday, December 24, 6:00pm
  - **Christmas Day** - Monday, December 25 - No Service

10. **Save The Date:** Our pianist, Caleb Esmond, will be hosting a Christmas recital at the church on the evening of Saturday, December 2. Stay tuned for more details!

## News & Needs

11. **MPC Officer Training Recommendations:** All communing members of Metrocrest may recommend qualified candidates for church office (Elder or Deacon), who will be invited to participate in the church's year-long officer training program which begins in January. Forms are available in the Lobby.
12. **CCA Giving Tree:** We have an amazing opportunity to serve with Christian Community Action this month by purchasing a gift from one of the tags on the CCA Giving Tree located in the lobby. This program helps CCA provide Christmas presents for children of families in need. Gifts should be returned to the church unwrapped with the CCA tag attached by Sunday, November 26.

## High Fives & Thanks

13. **Youth Sunday:** Huge thanks to the members of the MPC youth group who participated in last week's Fifth Sunday Youth Service. Our middle and senior high school students led music and served in a variety of ways. The next Youth Sunday is set for December 31.

## Prayer Requests

14. **For The World:**
  - **Israel** - For God's mercy on the people of Israel, especially those mourning the loss of loved ones; and on civilians caught between the Israeli Defense Forces and Hamas.
15. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
  - **Mission Heartedness** - For God to grant MPC a deepening love for sinners and a passion to reach them with the gospel.
  - **Church Finances** - For God's continued provision.
16. **For One Another:**
  - **Marriages** - For God's mercy on all married couples.
  - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Larry Bounds (Paul Hartgrove's friend), Steve Collinsworth, Jim Huckaby (Colton Huckaby's grandfather), Suzanne Larsen, Cherry Leslie, Ashley Marble, Luke Myers, Kristen Novak (Steve and Liz Wallins' daughter), Ellen Perry, Larry Perry, Ron Revell, David Wamsley, Marlene Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on Scarlett, newborn daughter of Teddy and Melissa Brewer; and Madeleine Esmond, expectant mommy due in January.

**Welcome to Metrocrest!** Please take a few moments to leave your contact information with Pastor Bill or a member of the Welcome Team. We would love to know that you worshipped with us today and share more information about our church.



**How can we pray for you?** MPC is a praying church! You can share your prayer requests with us by (1) using one of the cards found in the lobby; or (2) pointing your smartphone camera at this QR code to access a digital card. Please indicate whether your request is private or public. You may also request to pray with an Elder.

**Do you want to make a donation?** To fund MPC's mission and ministry, we depend on God's provision through you. If you'd like to make a donation this morning, you can do so by (1) placing it in the collection basket during the Offertory; or (2) pointing your smartphone camera at this QR code to access our secure online giving portal.



**Thank you for your financial support!** At MPC, we aim for financial transparency. Here's where we stand several months into this fiscal year (July-June): Last week's giving - \$6,587; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$116,464; and our projected giving to-date - \$141,923. We know these are difficult times for everyone. Please be as generous as you can in your personal stewardship, and please pray for God's faithful provision.



**Let's get connected!** MPC uses an app called Realm to allow you to update your personal information, communicate with groups and teams, follow church announcements, look up members, manage online giving, and join events. To get started, contact us through the church office at [info@metrocrestchurch.org](mailto:info@metrocrestchurch.org)!

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**Bill Lovell**  
**Laura Stites**  
**Nick Rhodes**  
**Will Grover**  
**Joseph Marble**

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*Music Director*  
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